To raiſe a preſent ſumme ; therefore goe forth,
Trie what my credit can in *Venice* doe,
That ſhall be rackt even to the uttermoſt,
To furniſh thee to *Belmount* to faire *Portia*.
Goe preſently enquire, and ſo will I,
Where money is, and I no queſtion make
To have it of my truſt, or for my ſake. *Exeunt.*

Enter *Portia* with her wating-woman *Nerriſſa*.

Por. By my troth *Nerriſſa*, my little body is aweary of this great world.

Ner. You would be, ſweet Madam, if your miſeries were in the ſame aboundance as your good fortunes are : and yet for ought I ſee, they are as ſick that ſurfeit with too much, as they that ſtarve with nothing ; it is no meane happines therefore to be ſeated in the meane, ſuperfluitie comes ſooner by white haires, but competencie lives longer.

Por. Good ſentences, and well pronounc'd.

Ner. They would be better if well follow'd.

Por. If to do were as eaſie as to know what were good to do, Chappels had beene Churches, and poore mens cottages Princes Pallaces, it is a good divine that followes his owne inſtructions, I can eaſier teach twenty vvhat were good to be done, then to be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching : the braine may deviſe lawes for the blood, but a hote temper leapes ore a cold decree, ſuch a hare is madnes the youth, to skip ore the meſhes of good counſell the cripple ; but this reaſoning is not in the faſhion to chooſe me a husband, ô mee the word chooſe, I may neither chooſe who I would, nor refuſe who I diſlike, ſo is the wil of a lyving daughter curbd by the will of a dead father : is it not harde *Nerriſſa*, that I cannot chooſe one, nor refuſe none.

Ner. Your Father was ever vertuous, and holy men at their death have good inſpirations, therefore the lottry that he hath deviſed in theſe three cheſts of gold, ſilver, and leade, vvhereof who chooſes his meaning chooſes you, will no doubt never be choſen by any rightly, but one who you ſhall rightly love : But vvhat warmth is there in your affection towards any of theſe Princely ſuters that are already come ?

Por.

Por. I pray thee over-name them, and as thou nameſt them, I will deſcribe them, and according to my deſcription, levell at my affection.

Ner. Firſt there is the *Neopolitane* Prince.

Por. I, that's a colt indeed, for he doth nothing but talke of his horſe, and he makes it a great appropriation to his owne good parts, that he can ſhooe him himſelfe : I am much afear'd my Ladie his mother plaid falſe with a Smith.

Ner. Then is there the Countie *Palentine*.

Por. He doth nothing but frowne (as who ſhould ſay, and you will not have me, chooſe; he heares merry tales and ſmiles not; I feare hee will prove the weeping Philoſopher vvhen hee growes old, being ſo full of unmannerly ſadneſſe in his youth.) I had rather be married to a Death-head with a bone in his mouth, than to either of theſe : God defend me from theſe two.

Ner. How ſay you by the French Lord, *Mounſier Le Boune?*

Por. God made him, and therefore let him paſſe for a man, in truth I know it is a ſin to be a mocker, but hee, why hee hath a horſe better than the *Neopolitans*, a better bad habite of frowning than the Count *Palentine*, he is every man in no man ; if a Traſſell ſing, he ſtraight fals a capering; he will fence with his owne ſhadow. If I ſhould marry him, I ſhould marry twenty husbands : if he would deſpiſe me, I would forgive him ; for if he love me to madneſſe, I ſhall never requite him.

Ner. What ſay you then to *Fauconbridge*, the young Baron of *England?*

Por. You know I ſay nothing to him, for he underſtands not me, nor I him: he hath neither Latine, French, nor Italian, and you will come into the Court, and ſweare that I have a poore penny-worth in the Engliſh : he is a proper mans picture, but alas, who can converſe with a dumbe ſhow? how odly he is ſuted, I thinke he bought his doublet in *Italy*, his round hoſe in *France*, his bonnet in *Germanie*, and his behaviour every where.

Ner. What thinke you of the Scottiſh Lord his neighbour?

Por. That he hath a neighbourly charitie in him, for he borrowed a box of the eare of the Engliſhman, and ſwore he would pay him againe when he was able : I thinke the Frenchman became his Suretie, and ſeal'd under for another.

Ner.